

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 37902 301129Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3705

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 37902

DEPT PLEASE PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 37775

1. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS HIGHLIGHT THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE MEDIA REACTION HERE DEC. 28 AND 29 TO GOVERNOR BYRNE'S VETO AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO GISCARD ON CONCORDE.

2. STATE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION MARCEL CAVAILLE IS WIDELY QUOTED AS SAYING IN TOULOUSE, "THE LAST CLOUDS WHICH THREATENED TO DARKEN CONCORDE'S SKY IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE DISAPPEARED. I ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN THE UNITED STATES' FEELING FOR EQUITY AND REALISM. THIS EVENT SHOWS I WAS RIGHT. CONCORDE IS NOW FREE IN THE UNITED STATES TO PROVE THAT IT IS ALSO A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS". CAVAILLE DODGED QUESTIONS REGARDING CONCORDE'S PRODUCTION PROGRAM FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CURRENTLY-PLANNED 16 AIRCRAFT. HE SAID SIMPLY THAT PURCHASERS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 37902 301129Z

MUST FIRST BE FOUND FOR ALL FIRST GENERATION PLANES AND THAT INTERESTED COMPANIES WANTED TO BE SURE CONCORDE COULD SERVE NEW YORK AND THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS PROFITABLE

3. ALL NEWSPAPERS GAVE FACTUAL REPORT OF EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS. LE FIGARO FOLLOWED WITH BRIEF ANALYSIS OF GOVERNOR BYRNE'S HOPES FOR FUTURE OF

SUBSONIC TRAFFIC AT NEWARK AIRPORT. THIS, IT SAID, RATHER THAN CONCORDE WAS PRIMARY MOTIVATION BEHIND VETO. IT CONCLUDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE WAY NOW APPEARED CLEAR FOR CONCORDE IN NEW YORK, STRICT NEW FEDERAL NORMS FOR SUPERSONICS WERE NEVERTHELESS STILL UNDER PREPARATION IN WASHINGTON.

4. LE MONDE SAW BYRNE'S VETO AS GIVING PRESIDENT CARTER A FORTUITOUS POLITICAL OCCASION TO PRESENT GISCARD WITH WELCOME NEWS JUST BEFORE THE FORMER'S ARRIVAL IN PARIS. IT CRITICIZED ELYSEE'S MOTIVES FOR PUBLICIZING CARTER MESSAGE IN A WAY SEEMING TO CONVEY TO FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION THE IDEA THAT GISCARD "KNOWS HOW TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS, EVEN FROM A VERY POWERFUL ALLY. BECAUSE, IN SPITE OF APPEARANCES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT REVERSE ITS JUDGEMENT. IT CONTINUES TO PREPARE SUPERSONIC NOISE REGULATIONS TO WHICH, ALONE, THE 16 CONCORDES BUILT OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADHERE".

5. OTHER REPORTS WERE MORE UPBEAT, WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE BEING SEEN AS PROOF THAT EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE TO MAKE NEXT WEEK'S VISIT A SUCCESS. FRANCE-SOIR'S HEADLINE READ "CARTER GIVES CONCORDE A COMMERCIAL FUTURE", AND LEAD ITEMS ON RADIO AND TV NEWS BROADCASTS, PROCLAIMED "NO MORE CLOUDS IN CONCORDE'S SKY"; "GREEN LIGHT FOR CONCORDE"; AND "THE ROAD IS CLEAR FOR CON-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 37902 301129Z

CORDE". FEW COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, HAVE FAILED TO INJECT WORDS OF CAUTION REGARDING THE NEW FEDERAL NOISE STANDARDS NOW UNDER PREPARATION AND US INTENTIONS REGARDING THE SECOND GENERATION OF CONCORDES WHICH THEY HOPE CAN FOLLOW THE 16 ALREADY BUILT OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
HARTMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: PARIS 37902 NOT PASSED.

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